

The Star Newsletter

November 2018

with God,
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Who then can be saved?

Jesus had been talking with a rich young man who wanted to be able to earn eternal life for himself. He was convinced that he had done a pretty good job of keeping the commandments that God had given through Moses: *"You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother..."* "All these I have kept," he boasted. It may have seemed to this young man that his relationship to God could not be better. *"What do I still lack?"* he asked Jesus. The answer would shock him. *"If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."*

He couldn't do it. He was so blinded by his love for the material wealth with which he had been blessed that he couldn't see how it was damaging his relationship with God. Jesus would then turn to his disciples as say something that might even cause some concern to us. *"Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."*



With man this is impossible.

Jesus' response to the question his disciples raised points out a reality that is true not only for those who are materially blessed, but for all of us. Earning heaven is mission impossible for you and me. Even super-human effort on our part will never result in the perfections that God would require from us to earn eternal life.

But what is impossible for you and me, is possible with God. Our loving God sent his Son into the world to live a perfect life and to die for our sins. Our caring God established a relationship with us by putting faith in our hearts through the work of his Holy Spirit, and making us his own dear children through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Our compassionate God gives us eternal life as a gift, through faith in Christ Jesus.

There are times in life when we are forced to face a challenge that is bigger than us, and Jesus' words come to mind: *"With man this is impossible."* But keep in mind, Jesus didn't stop there. He encourages us by telling us, *"With God, all things are possible."*

Now in the midst of our Gifted & Growing Capital Campaign, it would be easy to become pessimistic about the goals we established for ourselves, goals that with God's blessing will allow for expanded ministry opportunities. *"With man this is impossible."* But please remember, *"With God, all things are possible."* God can and will melt our sometimes cold and selfish hearts to see the opportunities he is putting in front of us. By the love with which God loved us first, he can and will motivate us to give joyfully, and to show our love for him.

With God, all things are possible.

GROW - GO - GLOW

Grow - In faith through the Word of God for a lifetime

Go - With the Gospel from backyard to community to the world

Glow - Through weekly worship and in daily lives to God's glory

GIFTED & GROWING



Rooted in God's Word

We are in the early stages of our capital campaign for ministry expansion of our church and school. We have already passed the \$630,000 mark in funds committed by our Pace-Setters, for which we are extremely thankful. The vast majority of our membership is encouraged to please return your commitments, if at all possible, by the weekend of November 3-5. Please use the special *Gifted and Growing* envelope in your packet of information. You may return it in the regular offering plate, or, mail it to the Church Office, or, turn it in to the Church and School Office any day of the week. Your commitments are strictly confidential and will be opened only by our Finance Team members, Cal Patterson and Glenn Reinhardt, who will also keep the membership informed regarding our total commitments to date each week. Thank you already to those who have already submitted your commitments. We look forward to the growing enthusiasm as our totals continue to come in for our ministry expansion. Most of all, we give thanks and praise to our God, for opening your hearts to respond to his love with your financial commitments given to his glory.

Special Event Planned for Gifted & Growing Commitment Sunday

November 4th, 9:00 a.m.-noon

A fellowship breakfast, consisting of eggs, pancakes, sausages, etc., will be serviced on Sunday, November 4th. Please join

your brothers and sisters in Christ in considering a commitment to the **Gifted & Growing Capital Campaign**, and enjoying some fellowship and food.



Gifted & Growing Capital Campaign and Simply Giving

The Simply Giving electronic withdrawal program is able to help you with offerings to the Gifted & Growing Capital Campaign. Whether you make your General Fund offerings through Simply Giving or not, you may use Simply Giving for offerings to the Gifted & Growing campaign. And if you already use Simply Giving for your regular General Fund offerings, you may add a separate offering for the Gifted & Growing campaign. Either way, the Simply Giving program can help make your offerings an easy and convenient process. New Simply Giving Authorization Forms that include a section for the Gifted & Growing Capital Campaign are now available on the credenza under the bulletin board. On the back of the Authorization Form is a list of Frequently Asked Questions but please feel free to contact Nancie Urban, Star Simply Giving Coordinator for more information as well. Nancie may be reached at 262-784-5273 or at naurban4535@att.net. Thank You.

Simply Giving



Our Large Group ↑ and Group Specific ↓ Bible Studies beginning November 18th



We welcome to Star of Bethlehem this month: Tom & Diane Sievert and their son, Nathan; Ben & Lisa Derouin and their children, Jovi and Calla. May the Lord bless their growing relationship with our Savior among us.

Welcome

BAPTISM

We also welcome into our Star of Bethlehem family by Holy Baptism: Avery Glasel, daughter of Chris & Annie Glasel; Elliot Purpus, son of Brad & Stephanie Purpus; and Phoenix Haberkorn. May the Lord keep them all in his loving arms throughout life to life everlasting.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

We will have two opportunities for Thanksgiving Worship; one on Wednesday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. and the other on Thursday, November 22 at 9:30 a.m. Both Services will be the same with the exception of musical enhancements. Join us please as we give thanks to our gracious God for another year of his blessings for our bodies and souls. *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever!* (Psalm 107:1)

Early Bird Bible Study

We are continuing our study of the Book of Philippians in our Early Bird Bible Study on Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. We meet in the Conference Room from 8:00-9:00 a.m. The only Friday we will not be meeting is the week of Thanksgiving. Join our Early Birds any Friday morning for some "seeds" for the soul!

SENIORS

Our next Senior meeting will be on Wednesday, October 31, at 6:00 p.m. On the anniversary of the Reformation, our video presentation will be on Luther. Our main entrée will be barbecue sandwiches. Please bring a side dish, or dessert, or \$5.00 to contribute toward expenses. All members 55 and over together with spouse, drivers, guests, etc., are welcome to join us for this or any of our senior meetings, outings, or activities. Our meeting in November will be on the 28th at 6:00 p.m. Our presentation will be by a representative from Stony Creek Retirement Community in Muskego, a ministry for seniors by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Muskego.

TIP-OFF CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNNEY

The Lutheran Elementary School's Basketball Season will get underway by hosting the *Tip-off Classic* on November 8-10. There are many opportunities to serve; concessions, scorers, tickets, supervision, etc. Stop in the School Office to see what is available and how you might serve. "Good luck, Stars" on the upcoming basketball season! Sincere thanks also to all of the coaches for your time and efforts throughout the season to teach our children and train them how to represent our Lord and our church and school on and off the court.

SAVE THE DATE! *Advent by Candlelight* is being planned for Sunday, December 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Gathering Area and the Sanctuary. Watch for more information, but please reserve the date, ladies and daughters, guests, etc. to attend this event especially designed for preparation for another busy Advent, Christmas and New Year's seasons.



MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Advent Services will be held on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. We are going to 2 Services, just as we did for the Lenten Season. Please set aside those Wednesday evenings to draw near to the manger, as well as being prepared for the day of our Lord's return. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

Ammo Can Donations

An Ammo Can is on the back counter in the Gathering Area for donations to the WELS



Lutheran Military Support Group

for Veteran's Day on November 11. Your contributions support our WELS National Chaplain, Paul Ziemer, who coordinates 125 military contact pastors across our country and stationed throughout the world. Your contributions also support any WELS military personnel who suffer from PTSD following their faithful service in time of war. Thank you, vets, for the sacrifices you have made to keep us free!



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN

"The Giver"

You are invited to attend the production of "The Giver" at Wisconsin Lutheran High School on Friday, Nov. 2, at 7:30 p.m., Sat. Nov. 3 at 4:00 & 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8/adults and \$5/children. Before the Friday performance, you are invited to attend the Choir/Associates Spaghetti Dinner served in the cafeteria from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$10/adults and \$7/children. Tickets for both the play and the dinner are available at the door.

Veterans Day Observance Monday, November 12

Service men and women are invited to a complimentary plated breakfast that will be served in the WLHS cafeteria at 7:00 a.m. RSVP for the breakfast by Monday, November 5, online at www.wlhs.org/veterans. For additional questions, please call 414-453-4567 ext. 2004.

Everyone is invited to the special Veterans Day presentation in the main gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. Nationally recognized Staff Sergeant John Wayne Walding will speak about his experiences fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. The presentation will also be streamed live online the day of the event. For more information go to www.wlhs.org.



TOMORROW'S CHOICE

Please place your donations of diapers in the Pack and Play in the Gathering Area for our WELS Lutherans for Life Branch in Waukesha. Sizes 4 and 5 are especially needed at this time. Vicky Alf will be taking them to *Tomorrow's Choice* for us. Thank you so much for your donations!

HOSTS NEEDED DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Are you interested in opening your home to an international student from WLHS over the Thanksgiving holiday or winter break? We are actively looking for caring families to serve this need. Families receive a stipend to support their efforts with the student. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the International Student Program Director, Mr. Eric Duwe, at: eric.duwe@wlhs.org.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

St. Paul's, East Troy, invites the women of Star of Bethlehem to a women's workshop on Sunday, Nov. 4, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The presentation will be given by Joan Dickerson, Clinical Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Professional Counselor. Her topic will be: "God's Plan for Your Life." Please register by calling: 262-642-3202. There is no cost. Light refreshments will be served.

WELS WAUKESHA CAMPUS MINISTRY

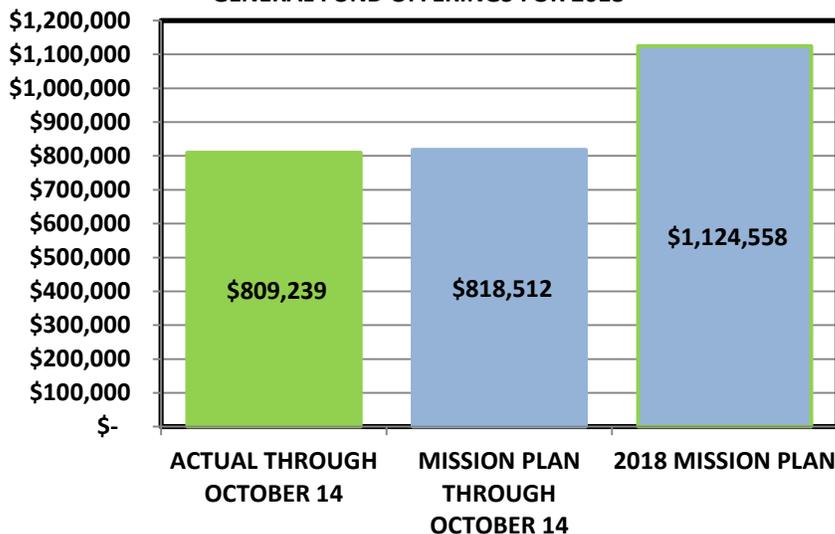
Did you know our church and area WELS congregation support an active Campus Christian Ministry that meets monthly on the campus of Carroll University in Waukesha? All our congregation's college students (even if they don't attend Carroll) are invited to attend timely Bible studies, fun mixers, tasty study snacks, and helpful service projects (plus game nights, movies, and much more). Like more info or be added to their contact list? Contact volunteer campus Pastor Scott Oelhafen from Trinity Lutheran Church in Waukesha soelhafen@trinitywels.com 262-442-8568 or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/waukeshacampusministry

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE.

Theatre Production: The Wisconsin Lutheran College Theatre Department will present Shakespeare's *The Tempest* **November 2-4** and **8-10** in the Center for Arts & Performance Raabe Theatre. Learn more at wlc.edu/theatre-productions or call 414.443.8802.

Warrior 5K...Through the Park: Register for a 5K trail run or 2.25 mile walk to be held at Greenfield Park on **November 3**. The event is presented by the Wisconsin Lutheran College Cross Country team. Learn more at wlc.edu/warrior5k.

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS FOR 2018



From the President

So, here we are . . . just a few weeks before Thanksgiving. As they say, time flies!

For many people, "turkey day" is a day to take some time to think about their blessings.

Blessings come in many forms, of course. Whether we're thankful for family and friends, our health, our career – or whatever it is – as Christians, we're also thankful for what our Lord and Savior did for all of us some 2,000 years ago.

We didn't deserve any of it. This Perfect Gift of Eternal Salvation was/is given, freely, out of pure love by our Creator God.

It's a message with eternal consequences that all of us here at Star of Bethlehem is privileged – nay, directed – to share with anybody who will listen.

And our facilities here at Star are but one "tool" we use to help us accomplish the Great Commission:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you . . ."
(Matthew 28:19-20)

THAT'S why we're now engaged in a Capital Campaign!

True fact: Every single person I have spoken to supports an expansion of our facilities. Every one!

Won't you please join your fellow Christians in helping to financially support this addition?

By now, you should have received a large envelope containing a descriptive brochure, a prayer card, bookmark, and a commitment form. If you haven't yet opened it, I would ask you to do so now while you're thinking about it.

Please take some time to prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support our Capital Campaign. No amount is too small. Then, complete the form, pop it into the smaller envelope, seal it, and mail or drop it off at Star. (You can also place the sealed envelope into the weekly offering plate.)

Ideally, we'd like to receive all the commitments by no later than Monday, November 5th.

Folks, with our Lord's help, we can do this!

See you in church!

Gene Szaj